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(54) **FAN BLADE COVER WITH ORNAMENT**

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B63H 7/00 (2006.01)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** 416/5,
416/62, 146 R; 150/158, 165, 154; D23/411;
446/227

See application file for complete search history.

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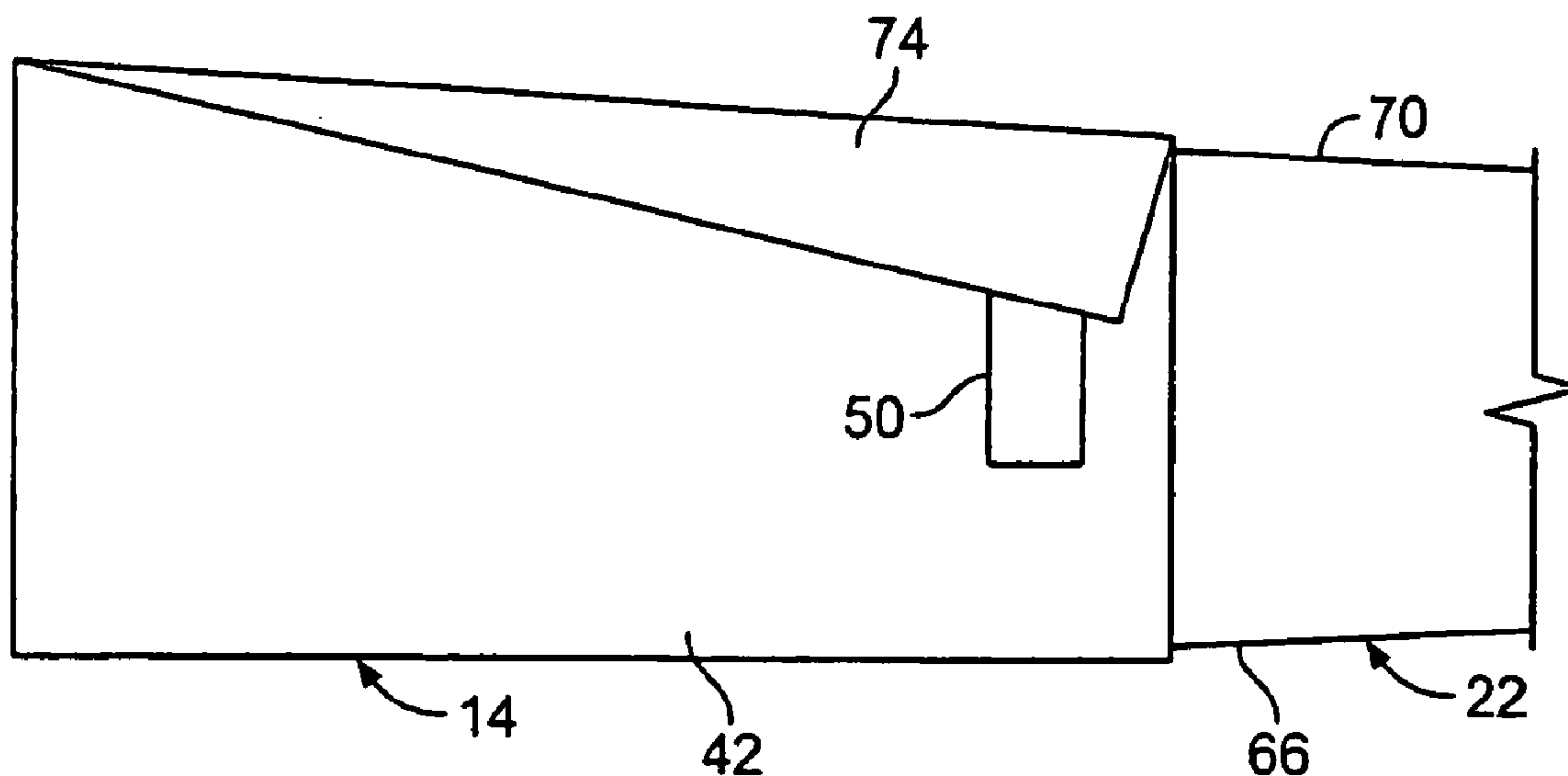
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A cover for a fan blade. The cover includes a sleeve having an open end for receiving the fan blade. The sleeve has hook and loop fasteners that are configured to engage each other to secure the sleeve about the fan blade. The cover also includes an ornament and connection features extending from the sleeve and the ornament. The connection features engage each other to connect the ornament to the sleeve such that, as the fan blade rotates, the sleeve and ornament rotate therewith.

18 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



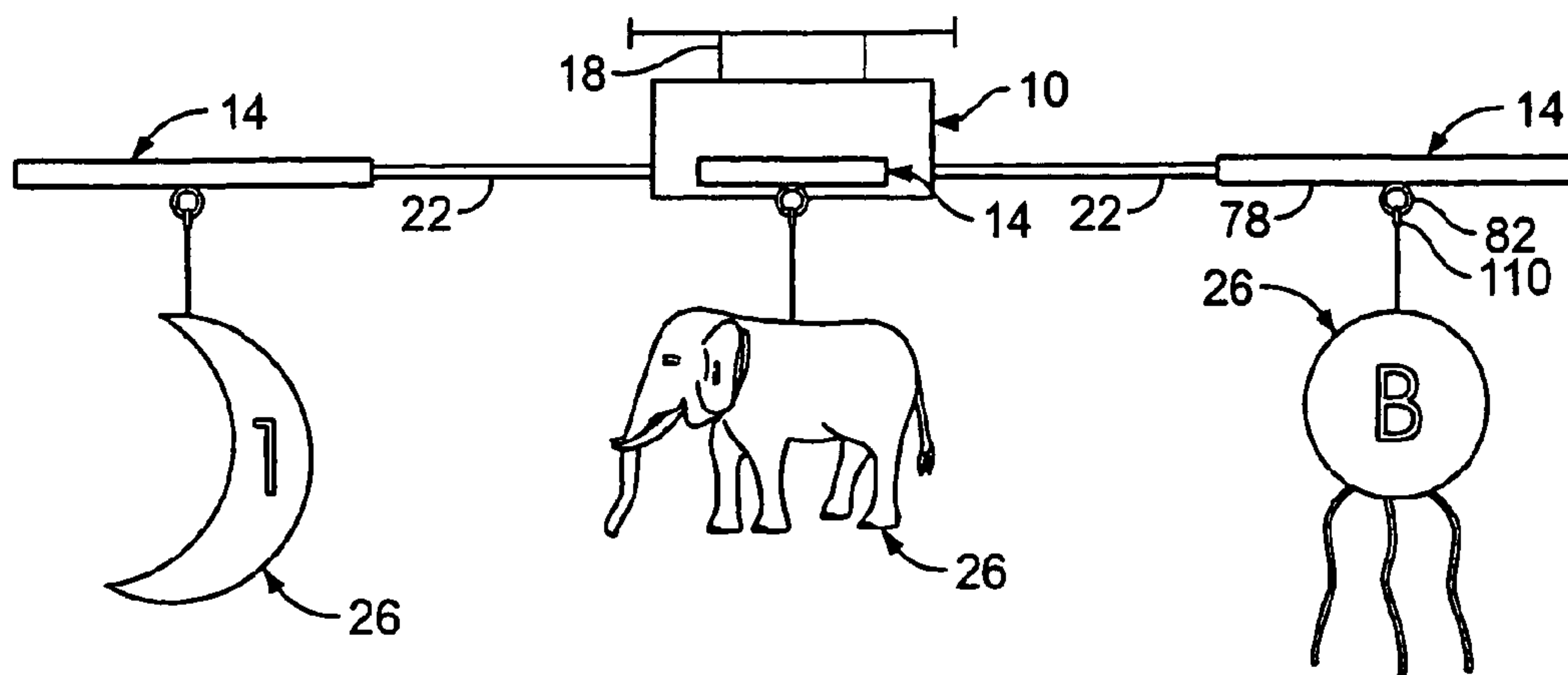


FIG. 1

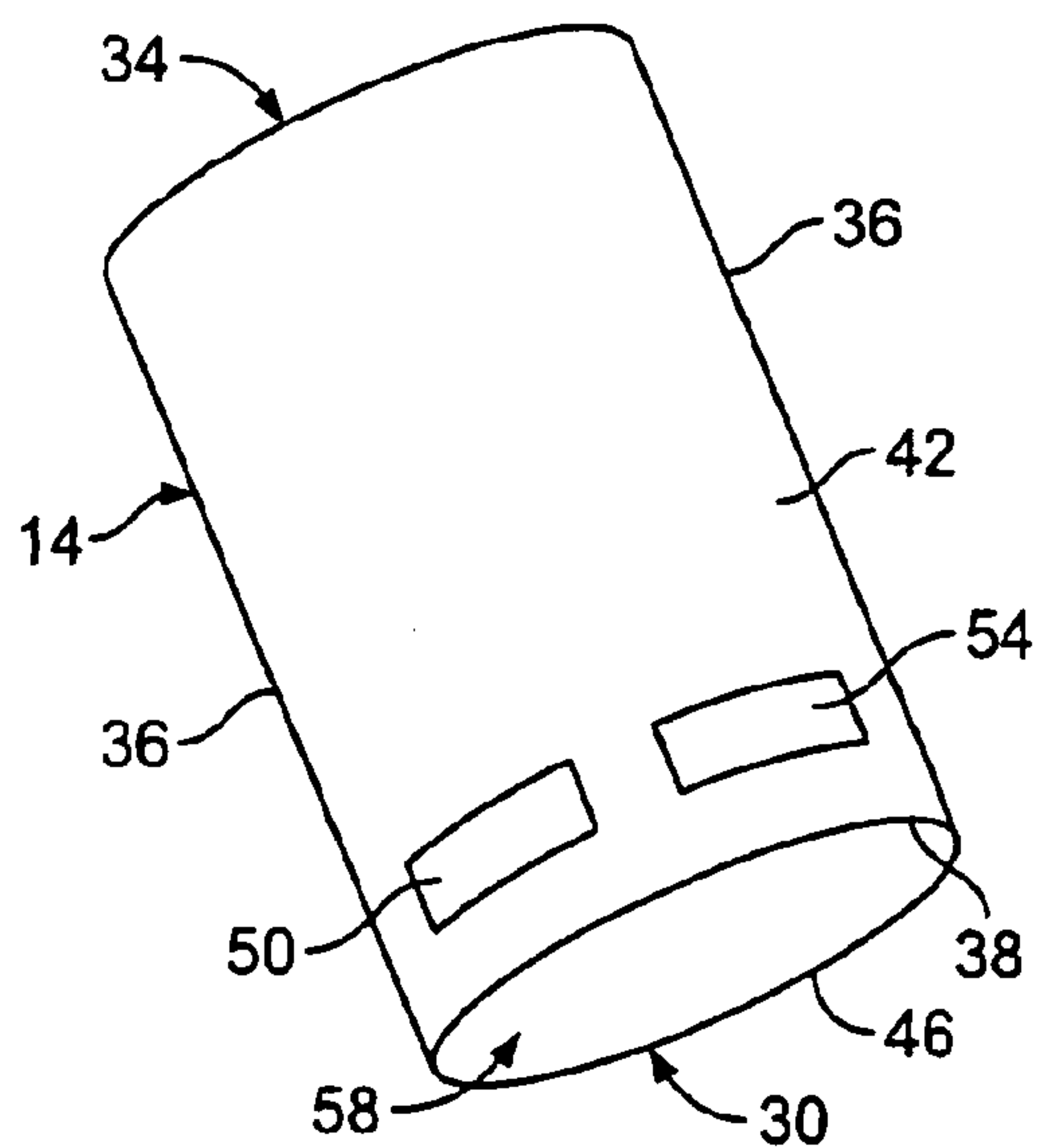


FIG. 2

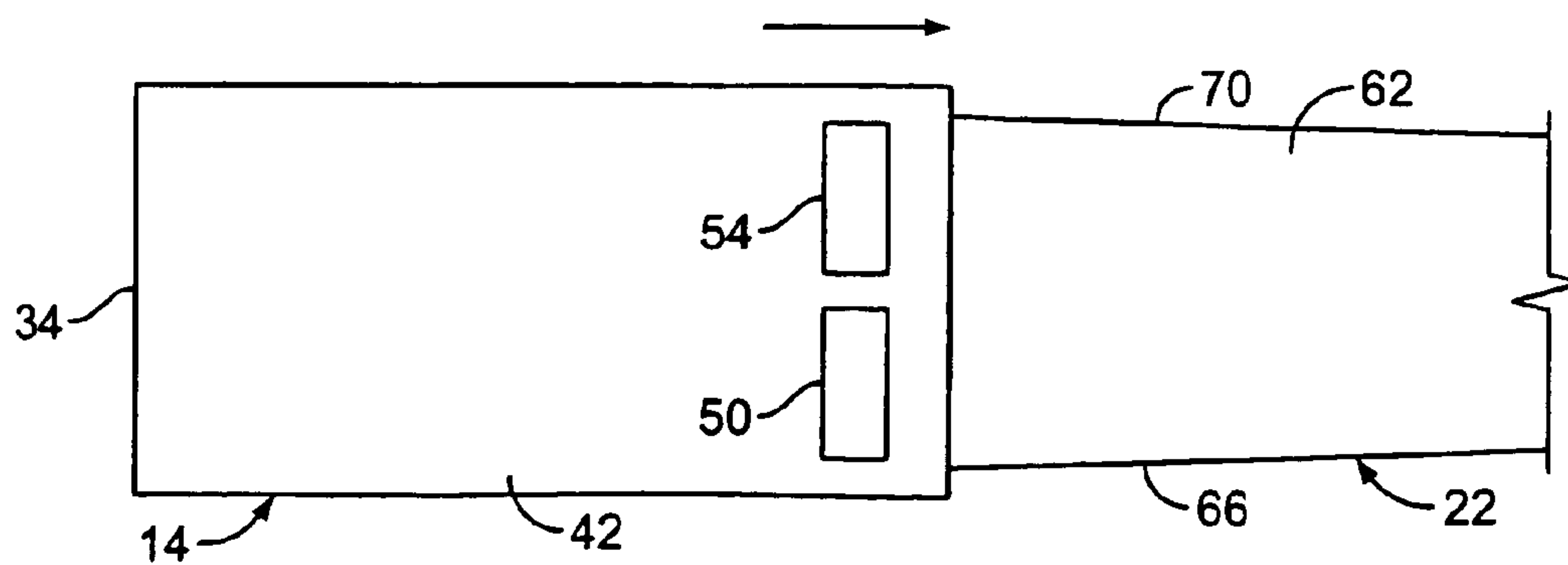


FIG. 3

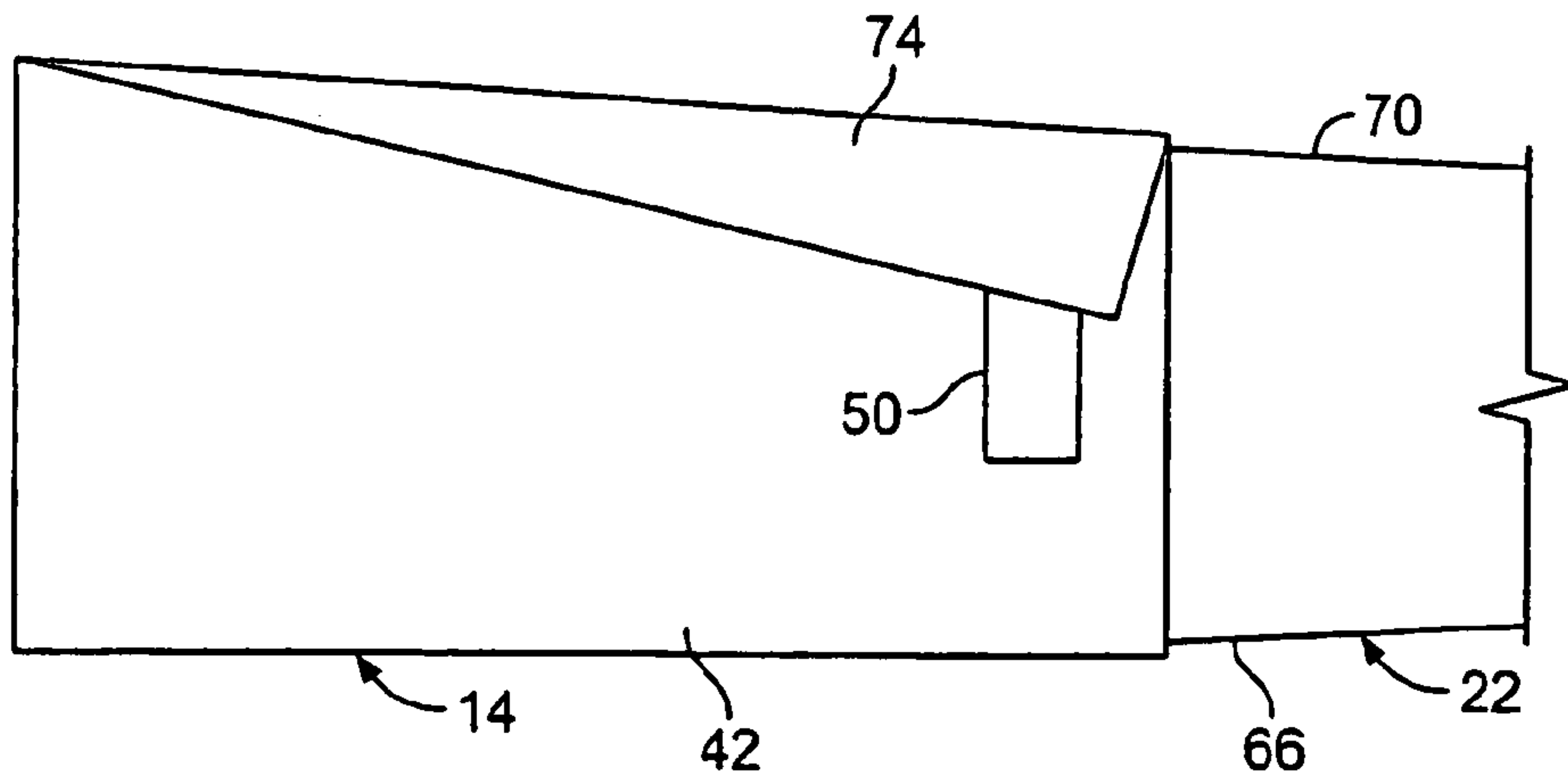


FIG. 4

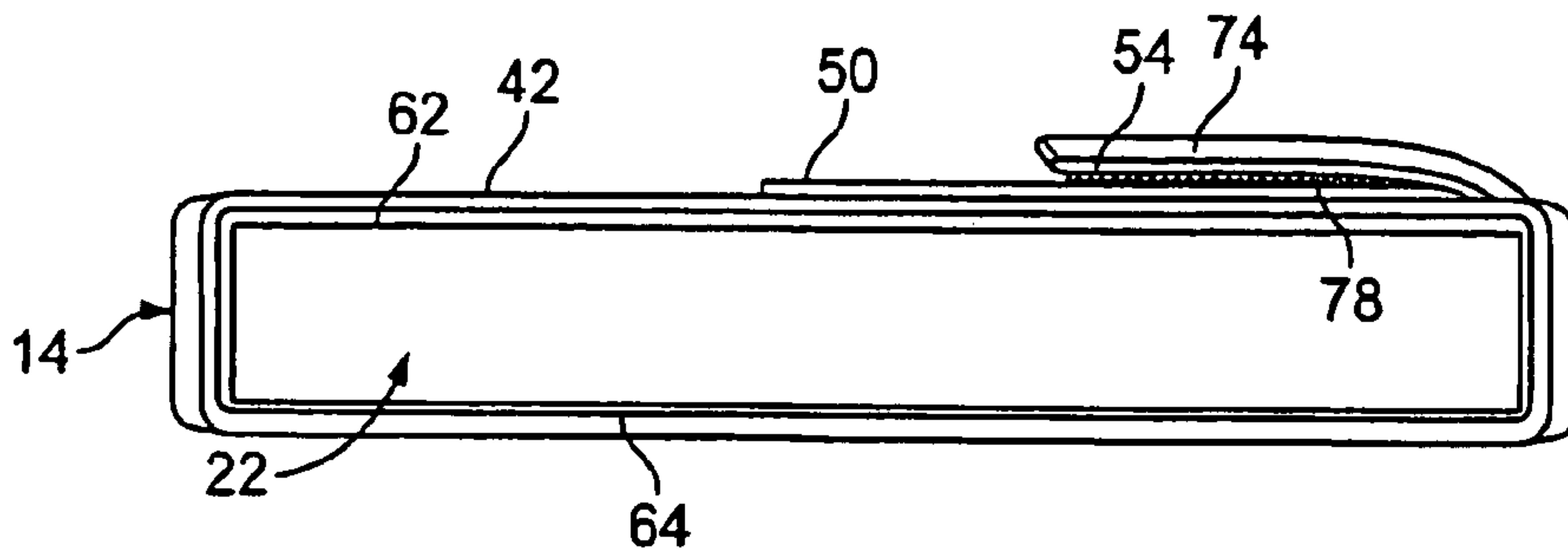


FIG. 5

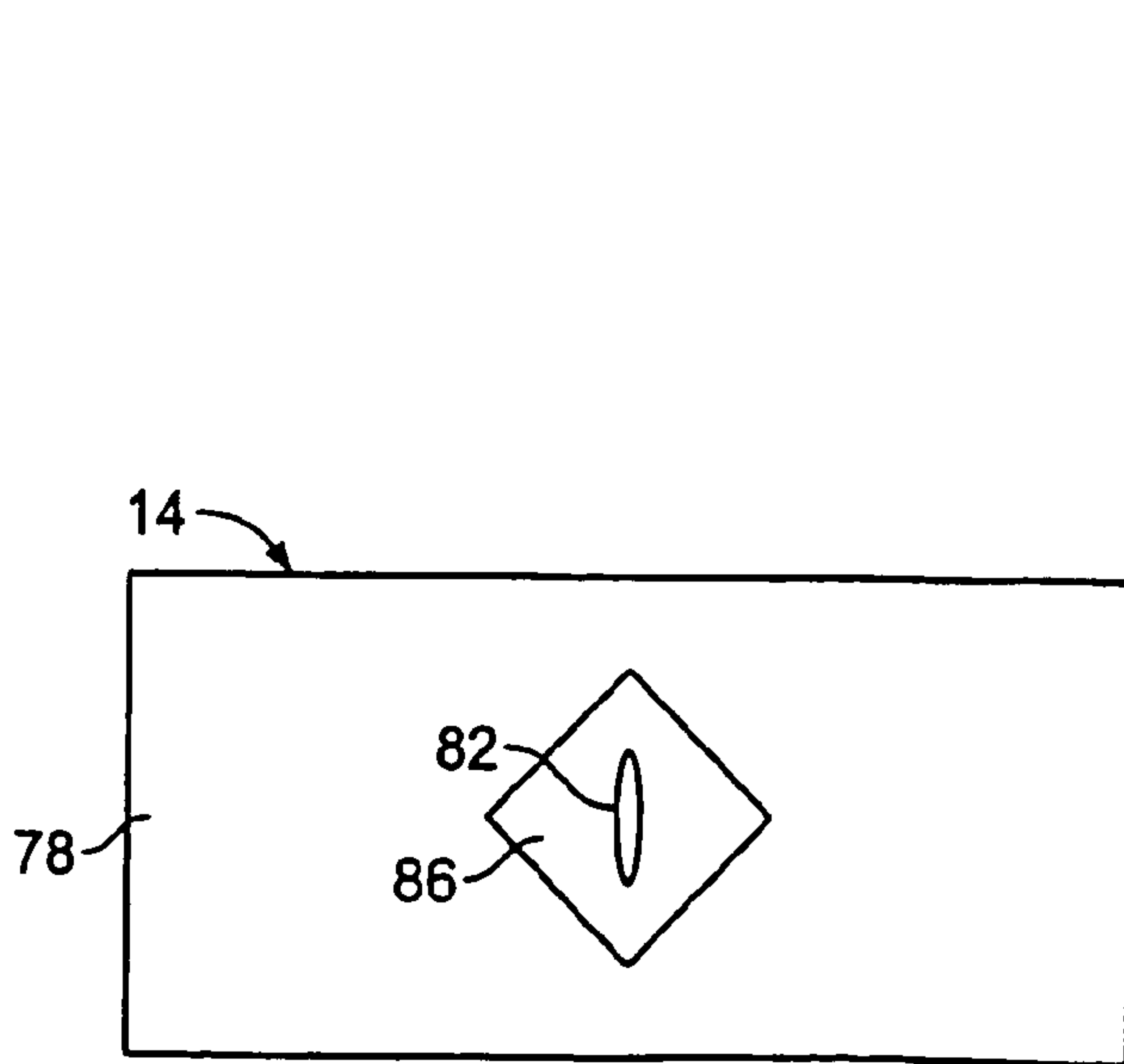


FIG. 6

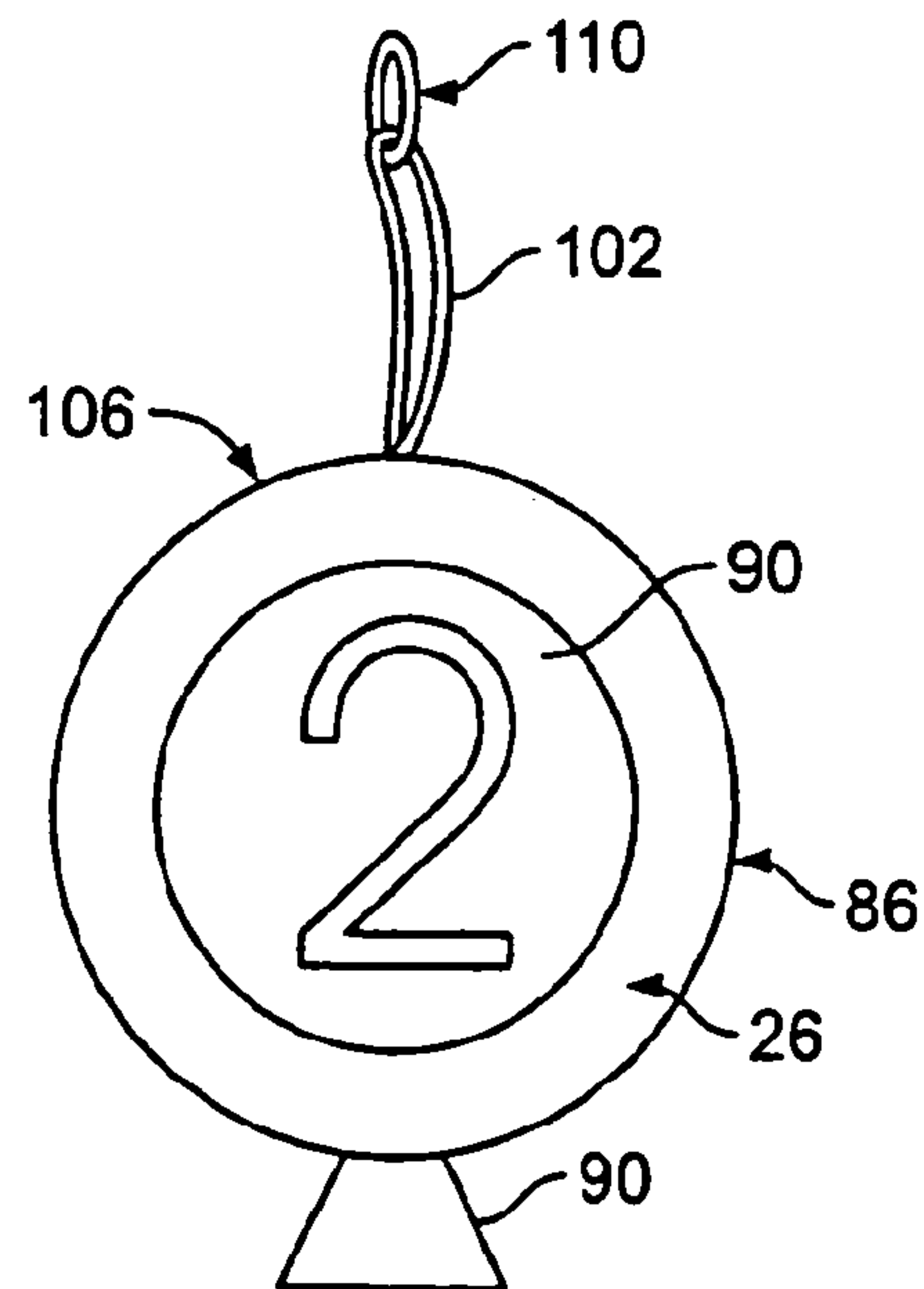


FIG. 7

FAN BLADE COVER WITH ORNAMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a decorated cover for a fan blade. More particularly, certain embodiments of the present invention relate to a fan blade cover configured to carry an ornament.

Infants and small children spend a considerable amount of time lying on their backs in a crib staring up at the ceiling. Often the monotony of this vantage point drives the child to express his or her displeasure by an outburst of tears and wails. Therefore, parents often will hang a mobile over the child's crib. The conventional mobile includes several differently shaped and colored ornaments or toys, often sharing a theme or pattern, connected together by a system of threads or strings. The mobile is hung from the ceiling or some other overhead object, or extends from the crib itself, above the child in order that the child can see the different ornaments. Additionally, mobiles often may be manipulated or wound-up and released in order that the ornaments move around relative to each other or the entire mobile rotates or moves up and down above the crib. The shapes, colors, patterns, and movements of the ornaments distract and entertain the child and thus may reduce the number of the child's outbursts. Often the ornaments are shaped like numbers, alphabet letters, or animals in order that the mobile not only distract the child, but also have educational value. Furthermore, observing moving ornaments having certain contrasting colors and patterns may help improve the child's focus and thus better prepare the child for learning activities.

The conventional mobile suffers from some drawbacks however. The movement of the mobile and its ornaments plays an important part in distracting and entertaining the child. However, the wind-up mobile eventually stops moving after a certain amount of time, and when the mobile stops moving, the child may become upset. Additionally, the conventional mobile has only the ornaments that are attached thereto or that are sold therewith. Therefore, if a parent wishes to change the types of ornaments above the child, the parent needs to buy an entirely new mobile with different shaped, colored, and themed ornaments. Similarly, a parent cannot interchange different ornaments on a conventional mobile to create an individually tailored mobile for the child displaying a desired variety of colors, patterns, or themes. Additionally, mobiles are often suspended only a short distance above the crib, and thus the child may be able to reach up and disrupt or break the mobile and its ornaments.

Therefore, a need exists for a mobile system that overcomes the deficiencies of conventional mobiles.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Certain embodiments of the present invention include a cover for a fan blade. The cover includes a sleeve having an open end for receiving the fan blade. The sleeve has hook and loop fasteners that are configured to engage each other to secure the sleeve about the fan blade. The cover also includes an ornament and connection features extending from the sleeve and the ornament. The connection features engage each other to connect the ornament to the sleeve such that, as the fan blade rotates, the sleeve and ornament rotate therewith.

Certain embodiments of the present invention include a decorative mobile for use with an overhead fan blade. The mobile includes a cover having closed rear and side ends to

form a passageway at an open end opposite the rear end. The open end receives the fan blade into the passageway. The cover has hook and loop fasteners that are configured to engage each other to secure the cover about the fan blade.

The cover has a first connection feature extending therefrom. The mobile also includes an ornament having a second connection feature extending therefrom. The first and second connection features engage each other to connect the ornament to the cover such that, as the fan blade rotates, the cover and ornament rotate therewith.

Certain embodiments of the present invention include a decorative mobile for use with an overhead fan blade. The mobile includes a cover having closed rear and side ends to form a passageway at an open end opposite the rear end. The open end receives the fan blade into the passageway. The cover has hook and loop fasteners that are disposed proximate each other on a top side of the cover. The cover is folded about the top side such that one of the hook and loop fasteners is folded over, and engages, the other of the hook and loop fasteners to secure the cover to the fan blade. The cover has a first connection feature extending therefrom. The mobile also includes an ornament. The ornament has a second connection feature extending therefrom. The first and second connection features engage each other to connect the ornament to the cover such that, as the fan blade rotates, the cover and ornament rotate therewith.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of an overhead fan and blade covers according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 illustrates a top isometric view of a blade cover of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 illustrates a top view of the blade cover of FIG. 2 receiving a fan blade according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 illustrates a top view of a blade cover and a fan blade according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 illustrates a side view of the blade cover and the fan blade of FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 illustrates a bottom view of the blade cover of FIG. 2.

FIG. 7 illustrates an isometric view of an ornament according to an embodiment of the present invention.

The foregoing summary, as well as the following detailed description of certain embodiments of the present invention, will be better understood when read in conjunction with the appended drawings. For the purpose of illustrating the invention, there is shown in the drawings, certain embodiments. It should be understood, however, that the present invention is not limited to the arrangements and instrumentalities shown in the attached drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIG. 1 illustrates a side view of an overhead fan or ceiling fan **10** and blade covers **14** according to an embodiment of the present invention. The fan **10** has an electric motor **18** and fan blades **22**. The blade covers **14** receive, and are secured to, the fan blades **22**. The fan blade covers **14** include ornaments **26** that are suspended therefrom. When the fan **10** is activated, the motor **18** causes the fan blades **22** to rotate thereabout. The blade covers **14** stay secured to the fan blades **22** and thus the blade covers **14** and ornaments **26** rotate with the fan blades **22**. The blade covers **14** may have

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any number of different colors and patterns. Additionally, the ornaments may have any number of different shapes, colors, and patterns. Thus, the rotating blade covers **14** and ornaments **26** may be used to create any number of different visual displays.

FIG. **2** illustrates a top isometric view of a blade cover **14** of FIG. **1**. The blade cover **14** is a sleeve made from a durable washable material and may have a variety of colors, patterns, and styles. For example, the blade cover **14** may be made of fabrics such as cotton, nylon, or any other synthetic material or any blend of materials. The material of the blade cover **14** is sewn to form a generally rectangular shape and resembles an elongated sleeve with an open end **30**, a closed end **34**, and side ends **36**. The closed end **34** and the side ends **36** of the blade cover **14** are secured by stitching while edges **38** along the open end **30** are stitched to prevent fraying. Alternatively, any other method known in the art besides sewing or stitching may be used to form the material into the blade cover **14**. The open end **30** leads to a passageway **58** within the blade cover **14**. The blade cover **14** has top side **42** and a bottom side **46**. The blade cover **14** has hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** such as those sold under the trademark VELCRO on the top side **42** proximate the closed end **34**. Alternatively, any number of other types of hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** may be used. The hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** may be sewn into the top side **42** of the blade cover **14** or attached to the blade cover **14** by some other means. By way of example only, the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** may be glued to the top side **42**.

FIG. **3** illustrates a top view of the blade cover **14** of FIG. **2** receiving a fan blade **22** according to an embodiment of the present invention. In operation, the blade cover **14** is positioned on the fan blade **22** by sliding the blade cover **14** in the direction of arrow A about the fan blade **22** such that the fan blade **22** is received in the passageway **58** (FIG. **2**) of the blade cover **14**. The fan blade **22** is fully inserted into the blade cover **14** when the fan blade **22** engages the closed end **34** of the blade cover **14**. The blade cover **14** is positioned on the fan blade **22** such that the top side **42** and the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** of the blade cover **14** are on a top side **62** of the fan blade **22**. Because the blade cover **14** is wider than the fan blade **22**, the blade cover **14** has excess material extending along first and second sides **66** and **70** of the fan blade **22**.

FIG. **4** illustrates a top view of the blade cover **14** and the fan blade **22** formed according to an embodiment of the present invention. When the fan blade **22** is fully inserted into the blade cover **14**, the excess material of the blade cover **14** is pulled tight against the first side **66** of the fan blade **22**. Then the excess material on the second side **70** of the fan blade **22** is folded tightly over the top side **42** of the blade cover **14** such that a triangular fold **74** is formed along the top side **42**. The fold **74** is folded over the top side **42** such that one of the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** (not shown) on the underside of the fold **74** engages the other of the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** remaining on the unfolded portion of the top side **42**.

FIG. **5** illustrates a side view of the blade cover **14** and the fan blade **22** of FIG. **4**. As shown, the fold **74** includes one of the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** along an underside portion **78** thereof. When the fold **74** is folded tightly over the top side **42** of the blade cover **14**, one of the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** on the underside portion **78** engages the other of the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** on the unfolded portion of the top side **42** of the blade cover **14**. The engaged hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** maintain the blade cover **14** tightly folded about the fan blade **22** in order

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that the blade cover **14** does not slide off of, or become disengaged from, the fan blade **22** when the fan blade **22** rotates. Alternatively, the blade cover **14** may be positioned on, and connected to, the fan blade **22** such that the top side **42** of the blade cover **14** extends along a bottom side **64** of the fan blade **22**. The blade cover **14** may be folded to engage the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** such that the blade cover **14** is tightly secured about fan blades having either a tapered shape or a uniform width.

Alternatively, any number of other methods may be used to connect the blade cover **14** to the fan blade **22**. For example, at least one of the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** may be connected, for example by gluing, to the top side **62** of the fan blade **22** while the other of the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** may be connected to the interior of the top side **42** of the blade cover **14**. Thus, when the blade cover **14** is slid over the fan blade **22**, the hook and loop fasteners **50** and **54** engage each other to maintain the blade cover **14** about the fan blade **22**. Alternatively, any number of other methods known in the art may be used to connect the blade cover **14** to the fan blade **22**. Examples of such methods are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,019,479, 5,591,005, 6,015,261, 5,516,264, 5,591,006, 5,281,093, 6,619,920, 5,947,686, and 5,564,900.

FIG. **6** illustrates a bottom view of the blade cover **14** of FIG. **2**. The blade cover **14** has a bottom side **78** that covers the bottom side **64** (FIG. **5**) of a fan blade **22** (FIG. **5**) when the blade cover **14** is on the fan blade **22**. The bottom side **78** includes a patch **86** sewn or stitched thereto. The patch **86** may be made of the same material as the blade cover **14** and may have any number of different shapes, patterns, colors, or designs. Alternatively, the patch **86** may be connected to the bottom side **78** by any number of other means, for example, by glue. The bottom side **78** includes a ring **82** sewn or stitched into the patch **86** and/or the bottom side **78**. Alternatively, the bottom side **78** may not have a patch **86** and the ring **82** may be sewn directly to the bottom side **78**. Alternatively, the ring **82** may be a hook, clasp, clip, prong, fastener or any other number of other connecting features. Alternatively, the ring **82** may be connected to the bottom side **78** by any number of other means. When the blade cover **14** is positioned on a fan blade **22**, the ring **82** hangs from the bottom side **78** of the blade cover **14**, and thus the bottom side **64** of the fan blade **14**.

FIG. **7** illustrates an isometric view of an ornament **26** according to an embodiment of the present invention. The ornament **26** shown in FIG. **7** is but one of any number of examples of what kinds of ornaments **26** may be used with the blade cover **14** (FIG. **6**). The ornament **26** shown in FIG. **7** is made from fabric and is stuffed and sewn or stitched together along a peripheral region **86**. The fabric of the ornament **26** may have any number of patterns, designs, colors, or styles. For example, the ornament **26** may have numbers, letters, shapes, or other representations sewn or displayed thereon. The ornament **26** has patches **90** of fabric sewn on sides thereof that may have any number of patterns, designs, colors, or styles. For example, the patches **90** may have numbers, letters, shapes, or other representations sewn or displayed thereon. The ornament **26** and the patches **90** may be made of a durable washable material, for example, the ornament **26** and patches **90** may be made of fabrics such as cotton, nylon, or any other synthetic or any blend of materials. Alternatively, any number of other attachments may be connected to the ornament **26** besides the patches **90**. For example, strands or pieces of fabric having different shapes, colors or patterns may extend from the ornament **26**.

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Additionally, the ornament **26** may also be made of any number of other materials. For example, the ornament **26** may be made of plastic, rubber, metal, or synthetic materials. Additionally, the ornament **26** itself may be any number of shapes, colors, patterns, designs, or have any number of colors, patterns, designs, or representations displayed thereon. For example, a parent may wish to have a number of different ornaments **26** that each represents a letter of the alphabet, or a number, or an animal shape.

The ornament **26** includes a strand **102** of material that extends from a top end **106** thereof. The strand **102** may be connected to the top end **106** of the ornament **26** by any number of means, including, sewing, stitching, or gluing. Also, the strand **102** may be made of any number of materials and have any number of colors, patterns, or shapes. A clip **110** is connected to the strand **102**. Alternatively, the clip **110** may be a ring, hook, clasp, prong, fastener or any number of other connecting features. Alternatively, the clip **110** may be connected directly to the ornament **26** without the need for the strand **102**.

Returning to FIG. 1, in operation, the blade cover **14** is positioned on the fan blade **22** and secured thereto. The clip **110** of the ornament **26** is then connected to the ring **82** extending from the bottom side **78** of the blade cover **14** such that the ornament hangs, or is suspended from, the bottom side **78**. As many different ornaments **26** and blade covers **14** as available fan blades **22** may be used. When all the desired number of fan blades **22** have been decorated with the blade covers **14** and ornaments **26**, the fan **10** is activated such that the blade covers **14** and ornaments **26** rotate with the fan blades **22**. A small child may be positioned in his or her crib or play pen beneath the fan **10** and observe the rotating blade covers **14** and ornaments **26**. Depending on the themes and subjects parents may wish to present to their child, any number of different colors, shapes, patterns, designs, and representations may be displayed on the different ornaments **26** and blade covers **14**.

Alternatively, the blade covers **14** and ornaments **26** may be used for decorations not directed specifically to the entertainment of children. For example, the blade covers **14** and ornaments **26** may have the colors, patterns, shapes, or bear the insignias, of sports teams. Thus, the blade covers **14** and ornaments **26** may be decorated and combined in any number of other ways suitable to the tastes of the person decorating the fan.

The different embodiments of the present invention provide several benefits. First, the fan can be left operating such that the ornaments and blade covers do not stop moving after only a short period of time. The constant movement of the ornaments and blade covers keeps the child distracted for a longer period of time and continues until the child falls asleep. Also, by suspending the ornaments high above the child on the ceiling fan, the child cannot reach them and disrupt the ornaments or blade covers. Additionally, parents may interchange any number of different ornaments with different blade covers to create a new and different kind of mobile for their child at any time. Therefore, parents are not limited to one particular theme, or pattern, or color that comes with a particular mobile, rather parents are free to create diverse visual presentations for their children.

While the invention has been described with reference to certain embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the invention without departing from its scope. Therefore, it is

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intended that the invention not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed, but that the invention will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A cover for a fan blade, comprising:

a sleeve having an open end for receiving said fan blade, said sleeve having hook and loop fasteners that are configured to engage each other to secure said sleeve about said fan blade;

an ornament; and

connection features extending from said sleeve and said ornament, said connection features engaging each other to connect said ornament to said sleeve such that, as said fan blade rotates, said sleeve and ornament rotate therewith, wherein said sleeve has a bottom side and said ornament has a top end, one of said connection features extending from said bottom side of said sleeve and another of said connection features extending from said top end of said ornament, said connection features engaging each other such that said ornament is suspended from said bottom side of said sleeve.

2. The cover of claim 1, wherein said sleeve has a top side and said hook and loop fasteners are disposed proximate each other on said top side, said sleeve being folded about said top side such that one of said hook and loop fasteners is folded over, and engages, the other of said hook and loop fasteners.

3. The cover of claim 1, wherein said sleeve has a top side and said hook and loop fasteners are Velcro strips disposed along said top side, said top side of said sleeve being folded such that said Velcro strips engage each other to secure said sleeve about said fan blade.

4. The cover of claim 1, wherein said sleeve is fabric and has a rear end and side ends that are sewn together to form a passageway at an open end opposite a closed end, said open end receiving said fan blade into said passageway.

5. The cover of claim 1, wherein one of said connection features is a ring and the other of said connection features is a clip, said clip receiving said ring such that said ornament is suspended from said bottom side of said sleeve.

6. The cover of claim 1, wherein said ornament is made of fabric.

7. The cover of claim 1, wherein said sleeve is fabric and has a rear end and side ends that are sewn together to form a passageway at an open end, wherein said sleeve and fan blade each have a top side, said hook and loop fasteners being disposed on said top side of said sleeve, said sleeve receiving said fan blade in said passageway such that said top side of said sleeve is about said top side of said fan blade and said hook and loop fasteners are engaged at said top side of said sleeve to secure said sleeve to said fan blade.

8. The cover of claim 1, wherein said ornament has an enclosed strand extending therefrom that receives one of said connection features in order to connect said ornament to said connection feature.

9. A decorative mobile for use with an overhead fan blade, comprising:

a cover having closed rear and side ends to form a passageway at an open end opposite said rear end, said open end receiving said fan blade into said passageway, said cover having hook and loop fasteners that are configured to engage each other to secure said cover about said fan blade, said cover having a first connection feature extending therefrom; and

an ornament having a second connection feature extending therefrom, said first and second connection features

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engaging each other to connect said ornament to said cover such that, as said fan blade rotates, said cover and ornament rotate therewith, wherein said cover has a bottom side and said ornament has a top end, said first connection features extending from said bottom side of said cover and said second connection features extending from said top end of said ornament, said connection features engaging each other such that said ornament is suspended from said bottom side of said cover.

10. The mobile of claim **9**, wherein said cover has a top side and said hook and loop fasteners are disposed proximate each other on said top side, said cover being folded about said top side such that one of said hook and loop fasteners is folded over, and engages, the other of said hook and loop fasteners.

11. The mobile of claim **9**, wherein said cover has a top side and said hook and loop fasteners are Velcro strips disposed along said top side, said top side of said cover being folded such that said Velcro strips engage each other to secure said cover about said fan blade.

12. The mobile of claim **9**, wherein one of said first and second connection features is a ring and the other of said first and second connection features is a clip, said clip receiving said ring such that said ornament is suspended from said bottom side of said cover.

13. The mobile of claim **9**, wherein said cover is made of fabric and said rear and side ends are sewn or stitched together.

14. The mobile of claim **9**, wherein said cover and fan blade each have a top side, said hook and loop fasteners being disposed on said top side of said cover, said cover receiving said fan blade in said passageway such that said top side of said cover is about said top side of said fan blade and said hook and loop fasteners are engaged at said top side of said cover to secure said sleeve to said fan blade.

15. A decorative mobile for use with an overhead fan blade, comprising:

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a cover having closed rear and side ends to form a passageway at an open end opposite said rear end, said open end receiving said fan blade into said passageway, said cover having a top side and hook and loop fasteners that are disposed proximate each other on said top side, said cover being folded about said top side such that one of said hook and loop fasteners is folded over, and engages, the other of said hook and loop fasteners to secure said cover to said fan blade, said cover having a first connection feature extending therefrom; and

an ornament having a second connection feature extending therefrom, said first and second connection features engaging each other to connect said ornament to said cover such that, as said fan blade rotates, said cover and ornament rotate therewith.

16. The mobile of claim **15**, wherein said hook and loop fasteners are Velcro strips disposed along said top side, said top side of said cover being folded such that said Velcro strips engage each other to secure said cover about said fan blade.

17. The mobile of claim **15**, wherein said cover has a bottom side and said ornament has a top end, said first connection feature extending from said bottom side of said cover and said second connection features extending from said top end of said ornament, said connection features engaging each other such that said ornament is suspended from said bottom side of said cover.

18. The mobile of claim **15**, wherein one of said first and second connection features is a ring and the other of said first and second connection features is a clip, said clip receiving said ring such that said ornament is suspended from said bottom side of said cover.

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